

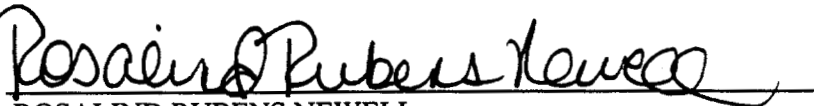
Entered - 11/04/96 - tew
CL96L0753 - DIANNE C. MITCHELL

CLAIM OF: **VALDIMIR GRIFFIN,**
through his attorney,
Josette M. Chambers
3390 Peachtree Road
Suite 900
Atlanta, Georgia 30326

00- *R* -1832

For damages alleged to have been sustained as a result of the loss of
property in police property management during 1996 and 1998 at 175
Decatur Street, SE.

THIS ADVERSED REPORT IS APPROVED

BY: 
ROSALIND RUBENS NEWELL
DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY

**JOSETTE M. CHAMBERS
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

Mitchell
10-21-96

ENTERED - 11/4/96 - tew
96L0753 - DIANNE C. MITCHELL

October 8, 1996

Council of The City of Atlanta
Clerk of the Council
City Hall
55 Trinity Avenue, S.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30335



**Re: Ante Litem Notice
My Client Valdimir Griffin**

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of my client, Valdimir Griffin, and pursuant to the Official Georgia Code Annotated provisions requiring ante litem notice, I am hereby notifying the City of Atlanta that Mr. Griffin has suffered property damages in the sum of \$15,000.00 as a result of the wrongful conversion of his personal property by the City of Atlanta Police Department.

The pertinent facts are these: Mr. Griffin was arrested on March 25, 1996 by City of Atlanta Police Department Officers D. Rasmussen and D. Little. At the time Mr. Griffin was changing residences and had in a borrowed sports utility vehicle the items listed on Attachment B, attached hereto; those items were confiscated. (Atlanta Police Department Complaint No. 96-085-1787). Mr. Griffin was released on bail and advised by Police Department officials that all of the items in his immediate possession at the time of arrest were being held as *evidence* and would not be released until after his case was disposed of. (See Mr. Griffin's Affidavit, attached hereto Attachment A.)

Mr. Griffin's case was heard on August 26, 1996, and the Court ordered that the guns listed on Exhibit B be forfeited. Mr. Griffin immediately proceeded to the Police Department's Property Unit to claim his remaining personal effects, as directed by officials in that department. It was at that time that Supervisor J. Crawford and Receptionist J. Byrum advised him that certain of that property was missing.

Upon a cursory investigation, it was discovered that with the exception of Exhibit B, Items 1 through 8, the property (identified on Exhibit B with an asterisk) had been sold or otherwise disposed of. The excuse given was that the property, in fact, was, in fact, listed as *property* as opposed to *evidence* and, therefore, was subject to storage time limitations. Both Supervisor Crawford and Receptionist Bynum admitted to error on part of the Police Department in that the officials incorrectly advised Mr. Griffin that all of his property was considered *evidence* as opposed to *property*.

But for the Police Department's initial misrepresentation each and every one of the items listed on Exhibit B were considered evidence and, therefore, not to be released until after the disposition of Mr. Griffin's case, those items actually deemed property would have been retrieved within the appropriate time frame.

The personal property listed on Exhibit B was not covered by insurance.

3390 Peachtree Road, Suite 900, Atlanta, Georgia 30326
(404) 238-0869 / Fax (404) 239-1727 / By Appointment